

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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APPROVED BY EUR: JEGOODBY
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OJCS (J-5/EUR): CDR. WALTER
EUR/SOV: KNBROWN
ACDA (ISP/REG): LFISCHER (SUBST)
INR/PMT: RHBARAZ (INFO)
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O R 180005Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
INFO CSCE COLLECTIVE
USDEL MC BRUSSELS BE
USNMR SHAPE MONS BE
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
HQ USEUCOM (ECJ-3) VAIHINGEN GE
HQ USLANTCOM (J-3) NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013271

USEEC/USOECDC ALSO FOR EMBASSY; BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CSCE, NATO, MPOL

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SUBJECT:CSCE/CBMS: SOVIET NOTIFICATION OF, AND INVITATION
OF OBSERVERS TO, EXERCISE "BEREZINA"
REF: MOSCOW 0976, 171600 JAN 78 (NOTAL)
1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE IS IN TWO PARTS: THE FIRST
PROVIDES OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TWO SOVIET EMBASSY NOTES
GIVING NOTIFICATION OF, AND INVITING TWO US OBSERVERS TO
ATTEND, COMBINED AIR/LAND EXERCISE INVOLVING 25,000 MEN TO

TAKE PLACE FEBRUARY 6-10, 1978 IN BYELORUSSIAN SSR; THE SECOND PROVIDES COMMENTS AND REQUESTS CERTAIN ACTIONS BE TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

PART ONE: (NOTE: TREAT AS CONFIDENTIAL). NOTE NO. 4
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS INFORMS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THAT, FROM FEBRUARY 6 TO 10, 1978, A MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE OF THE BYELORUSSIAN MILITARY DISTRICT, UNDER THE CODE NAME "BEREZINA," IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE AREA OF MINSK, ORSHA, POLOTSK, FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING PROBLEMS OF TROOP COORDINATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES.

GROUND FORCES, AIR FORCE UNITS AND SUBUNITS WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISE.

THE NUMBER OF TROOPS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE IS EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT 25,000.

JANUARY 3, 1978, WASHINGTON, D. C.

. NOTE NO. 5.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, IN REFERRING TO THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HAS THE HONOR TO TRANSMIT TO THE U.S. SIDE AN INVITATION TO SEND TWO OBSERVERS TO THE MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE OF THE BYELORUSSIAN MILITARY DISTRICT IN THE AREA OF MINSK, ORSHA, AND POLOTSK.

UNITS AND SUBUNITS OF GROUND AND AIR FORCES ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE THAT CARRIES THE CODE NAME "BEREZINA."

THE OBSERVERS' STAY AT THE EXERCISE WILL BE FROM FEBRUARY 6 TO 9, 1978. THE TIME OF ARRIVAL OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN MOSCOW IS FEBRUARY 5, 1978.

THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE U.S. SIDE COULD ADVISE, BEFORE JANUARY 25, 1978, WHO WILL BE PRESENT AT THE MILITARY EXERCISE AND INDICATE RANK, NAME, AND THE POSITION OF THE OBSERVERS, AS WELL AS THEIR TIME OF ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW, INCLUDING FLIGHT NUMBER OR TRAIN.

THE EMBASSY IS TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN THE
ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGH CONSIDERATION.

JANUARY 13, 1978, WASHINGTON, D. C.

PART TWO:

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIFTH EXERCISE OF WHICH SOVIETS HAVE
GIVEN NOTIFICATION UNDER CSCE, AND FOURTH TO WHICH
OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN INVITED. (PREVIOUS EXERCISES ARE
"CAUCASUS," JAN 76; "NORTH," JUN 76; UNNAMED, MAR 77; AND
"CARPATHIA," JUL 77.) WHILE "BEREZINA" IS SIMILAR TO
PREVIOUS FOUR EXERCISES IN THAT IT INVOLVES APPROXIMATELY

25,000 PERSONNEL, IT IS FIRST MANEUVER TO WHICH US HAS
BEEN INVITED. TIMING OF NOTIFICATION AND OF DECISION
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TO BREAK NEW GROUND IN SELECTION OF INVITEES WOULD SEEM
CALCULATED FOR MAXIMUM FAVORABLE IMPACT UPON ALLIES AND
NNA'S DURING FINAL DISCUSSION AT BELGRADE OF CBM PROPOSALS,
INCLUDING SOVIET CBM PROGRAM OF ACTION. WITH RESPECT TO
FINAL ACT IMPLEMENTATION, SOVIETS TO DATE HAVE SOUGHT TO
DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN SIGNATORIES AND
THE US AND CANADA. END COMMENT.

3. FOR USNATO: PLEASE PROVIDE ALLIES TRANSLATION OF
NOTES AND INFORM US WHETHER ANY HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION
OR INVITATION TO EXERCISE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
LEARNING ALLIED REACTIONS. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD
BE INTERESTED IN LEVEL OF REPRESENTATIVES MISSION
AND ALLIES BELIEVE SHOULD BE SENT AS OBSERVERS, AND WHETHER
OBSERVERS WOULD COME FROM CAPITALS AS WELL AS FROM MISSIONS
AT MOSCOW.

4. FOR MOSCOW: WE SHALL OF COURSE ACCEPT SOVIET
INVITATION TO ATTEND "BEREZINA." WE ARE CONSIDERING
WHO OUR OBSERVERS SHOULD BE.

5. FOR USDEL CSCE: ALLIES SHOULD BE INFORMED OF
CONTENT OF SOVIET NOTES AND OUR COMMENTS ON
THEIR SIGNIFICANCE.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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